

One

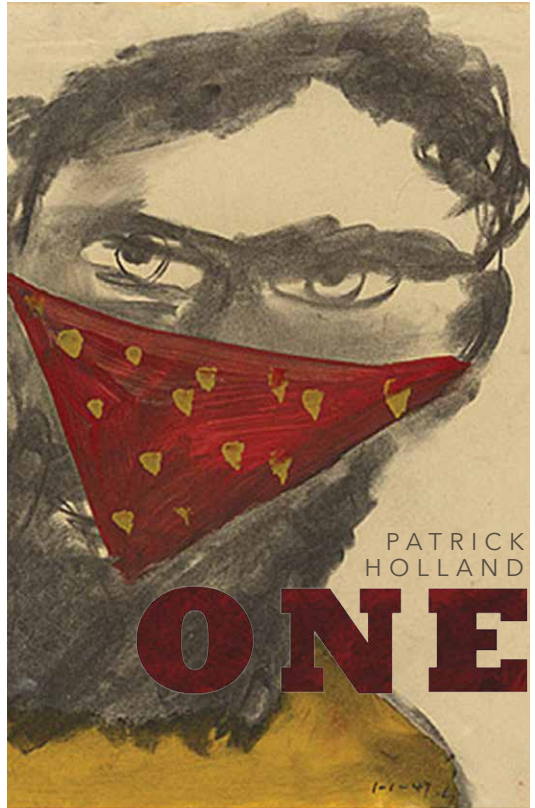
PATRICK HOLLAND

Though Ned Kelly popularly gets the title, Australia's last bushrangers were Patrick and James Kenniff, horse and cattle thieves whose operations were at their height at the turn of the 20th century. In *One*, troops cannot pull the Kenniff Gang out of the ranges and plains of Western Queensland - the brothers know the terrain too well, and the locals are sympathetic to their escapades. A policeman and a station manager go out on patrol from tiny Upper Warrego Station and disappear. Sergeant Nixon makes it his mission to pursue the gang, especially, Jim Kenniff, who becomes for him an emblem of the violence that resides in the heart of the country.

In the literary tradition of Cormac McCarthy and Peter Carey, *One* is a novel of lyrical beauty that traverses the intersections between violence and love. It is a love story that reveals the sometimes slippery nature of the truth. What right does a man have to impose his will on the world? Can the written law can ever answer the law of the heart?

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Patrick Holland is an Australian novelist and short story writer who grew up in outback Australia doing horse work for local station owners. His critically acclaimed novels include *The Mary Smokes Boys*, *The Darkest Little Room* and *Navigatio*. His short story collection *The Source of the Sound* won Salt Publishing's 2010 Scott Prize.